

TRIPLE YOUR DISK ACCESS SPEED

No hardware modification required.

FastDOS

Fast Disk operating system for APPLE][computers.

Completely compatible with DOS disks
Loads and saves standard DOS files.

Completely compatible with all DOS/APPLESOFT programs that access DOS through the standard hooks, including FID and MUFFIN.

Executes all standard DOS commands.

Comparative timings:	DOS	FDOS
Bloading integer basic	14 sec	5 sec
Cataloging a 12 file disk	2 sec	1 sec
Saving a 10 sector program	6 sec	2 sec
Saving a 100 sector program	34 sec	7 sec
Loading a 100 sector program	24 sec	7 sec

Requires 48K

Recommended Retail Price: \$29

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Dealer enquiries should be directed to:

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FDOS version 1 — equivalent to Apple DOS 3.3

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This manual, the disk FDOS CREATOR, and FDOS itself may not be copied except for the use of the original purchaser without prior and express consent, in writing, from Wytand Pty. Limited.

A version of FDOS that supports both copy protected program files and unprotected files on the same disk is available for organisations wishing to distribute software that uses FDOS.

KEEP THIS CARD — If you blow this disk or if Apple introduces a new disk drive this card will save you most of the cost of buying a new version of FDOS.

If you blow your disk, ask your dealer to exchange it and the card (recommended charge for an exchange is ten dollars. Wytand will accept returns from dealers and credit them against further purchases.) If your dealer will not exchange, send the card and the blown disk, ten dollars (by cheque), your address, and the name of the shop where you purchased the FDOS CREATOR, to Wytand. We will fix.

REQUIREMENTS

In order to use FDOS you require a 48K Apple, standard Apple disk drives, and the Apple DOS manual.

These instructions assume that you are reasonably familiar with Apple DOS.

BACKGROUND

The disk operating system (DOS, FDOS, or PASCAL) is stored on the disk. When you boot a disk you bring the operating system into the Apple. If you boot a disk with DOS on it you will be using DOS. If you boot a disk with FDOS on it you will be using FDOS.

The first thing DOS or FDOS does is run a program, usually called the hello program. The name of the hello program is specified when the operating system is placed on the disk. Usually the hello program immediately hands control back to the user.

INSTALLATION

The accompanying disk (FDOS CREATOR) does not have FDOS on it in bootable form. Instead it boots into a program called FDOS CREATE, similar to the DOS program MASTER CREATE. This program will convert the operating system on existing disks so that when you boot them, you will have FDOS operating your disks instead of DOS. It can also format new disks, initializing them and laying down FDOS at the same time.

To convert your existing DOS disks so that when they boot they boot up with FDOS instead of DOS, and to generate new disks with FDOS on them you should use FDOS CREATE. Simply boot your FDOS CREATOR disk and follow the instructions that appear on the screen.

Boot FDOS CREATE

Insert the disk to be converted or initialized.

Answer the questions that appear on the screen. To accept the default hit carriage return.

After you have answered these questions the disk will be converted or initialized.

After you have converted your system master please replace its copy program as described below.

COPY PROTECTION

Note there is one important difference between DOS and FDOS. The FDOS INIT command does not produce a bootable disk. It does not store FDOS on the disk, whereas the DOS INIT command stores DOS on the disk. You can store programs and data on a disk produced by the FDOS INIT command but you cannot boot it, because there is no operating system on it to boot. So you cannot copy FDOS by INITING other disks, the way you can copy DOS.

Neither can you copy FDOS by copying the disk because the FDOS tracks are copy protected. A special copy program is provided on your FDOS CREATOR disk, which copies the data and programs on a disk, without attempting to copy the disk operating system. Convert your DOS system master using FDOS CREATE, then boot your system master, delete the copy programs from it and FID the copy program from your FDOS CREATOR disk to your system master disk.

If you attempt to use your existing copy program to copy FDOS disks it will not work.

There is only one way you can create new copies of FDOS, and that is by using the copy protected disk FDOS CREATOR. (Of course if you are a reasonably well informed machine language programmer it will only take you a few days to make FDOS copyable, but please, have mercy on a poor poverty stricken programmer, and refrain from handing them out to your friends like lollies. By the way, although you do not need to understand the method of copy protection in order to create a copyable version, if you want to do it the hard way the clue is “A glitch in time saves nine.”)

COPY PROTECTED DISKS WILL DIE IF CONVERTED TO FDOS

Most copy protected disks have the copy protected program integrated with the DOS in some fashion, so that the program comes up when the DOS boots instead of being loaded like a normal file. If you convert these disks you will lose the copy protected program. In particular if you convert FDOS CREATOR you will lose it. Make sure the write protect tab stays on at all times.

BUGS

If you discover any bugs please report them to Wytand P/L, but please, please — by mail, and please, do not report bugs immediately you find them. Many a “bug” disappears the morning after. Sleep on it before you report it.

DOS has a number of minor bugs that we have left in for the sake of compatibility (or sheer laziness). When you encounter a bug in relation to text file handling it is probably a DOS bug. Test to see if the same problem occurs in DOS as in FDOS. These bugs result from Apples fundamental design error of hanging the command interpreter onto the I/O hooks. The only reliable and efficient cure is to bypass the DOS command interpreter completely when handling text files. Buy yourself a copy of “Beneath Apple Dos” and use the file manager directly. Do not use the file manager position command. Adjust the file position pointer directly. (Of course if you are not doing anything complicated it is much simpler and perfectly satisfactory to use the command interpreter as documented in Apples DOS manual.)